

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 to 12 (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A connector element for connecting a fluid line, preferably a length of tubing, cannulas or catheters to a second connector element, comprising:

a conduit forming a lumen for conveying a flowing medium;

a sealing part moveable relative to the conduit between a closed position and an open position, adapted for sealing the conduit from an ambient atmosphere when in the closed position;

C 1
an opening element including an outer socket connector having a diameter that is greater than a diameter of the conduit, the opening element configured to open the sealing part while forming a connection, wherein the opening element prevents the sealing part from contacting the conduit either when in the closed position or in the open position;

a shut-off element adapted for sealing the conduit; and

a penetration body movable relative to the shut-off element and adapted for opening the shut-off element when forming the connection.

14. (Previously Presented) A connector element for connecting a fluid line, preferably a length of tubing, cannulas or catheters to a second connector element, comprising:

a conduit forming a lumen for conveying a flowing medium;

a sealing part moveable relative to the conduit between a closed position and an open position, adapted for sealing the conduit from an ambient atmosphere when in the closed position;

an opening element to open the sealing part while forming a connection, wherein the sealing part does not contact the conduit either when in the closed position or in the open position;

a shut-off element adapted for sealing the conduit; and
a penetration body movable relative to the shut-off element and adapted for opening the shut-off element when forming the connection, wherein the penetration body is disposed within the conduit.

15. (Previously Presented) The connector element according to Claim 14, wherein the penetration body comprises a projection for engaging a second inner socket connector of the second connector element when forming the connection.

16 (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting fluid lines, preferably first and second lengths of tubing, cannulas or catheters, comprising:

attaching a first connector element to the first length and a second connector to the second length;

pushing a housing of the second connector element into a housing of the first connector element, so that an outer socket connector of the first connector element acts on a sealing part of the second connector element to open the sealing part of the second connector element, wherein the sealing part of the second connector is movable relative to a conduit of the second connector and the sealing part of the second connector does not contact the conduit of the second connector either when in the closed or open position, and an outer socket connector of the second connector element acts on a sealing part of the first connector element to open the sealing part of the first connector element, wherein the sealing part of the first connector is movable relative to a conduit of the first connector and the sealing part of the first connector does not contact the conduit of the first connector either when in the closed or open position;

further pushing the housing of the second connector element into the housing of the first connector element, so that a recessed inner socket connector of the first connector element forms a continuous conduit with a recessed inner socket connector of the second connector element; and

further pushing the housing of the second connector element into the housing of the first connector element so that a penetration body of the first connector element opens shut off elements of the first and second connector elements.

18. (Currently Amended) A connector element, especially for connecting tubing, cannulas and catheters to a conduit region for conveying a flowing medium, having a sealing part, movable relative to this conduit region, by which the conduit region is able to be sealed from the atmosphere surrounding the connector element, and which is at a distance from this conduit region because of an opening element situated between the conduit region and the sealing part, wherein the sealing part includes a base body over whose cross section the diaphragm extends and which has an end region directed towards the connecting opening of the connector element, the diaphragm being situated at a distance from this end region of the base body.

N/A

6/1
Cont

19. (Previously Presented) The connector element of claim 18, wherein the base body is designed to be cylindrical and the diaphragm is situated in one of the end regions of the base body.

20. (Previously Presented) The connector element of claim 18, wherein the diaphragm has a straight or cruciform slit for the purpose of opening when connection is made.

21. (Previously Presented) The connector element of claim 18, wherein the diaphragm is formed as a silicone diaphragm.

22. (Currently Amended) The connector element of claim 18, wherein the conduit region includes a tube connector for conveying a flowing medium.

23. (Currently Amended) The connector element of claim 18, wherein the opening element represents a tube connector which surrounds the conduit region for conveying the medium.

24. (Currently Amended) The connector element of claim 22, wherein the conduit region for conveying the medium as well as the opening element are formed by concentrically positioned tube connectors, the tube connector forming the opening element ends with tube connector bordering the conduit region for conveying the medium, or slightly extends beyond it.

25. (Currently Amended) The connector element of claim 18, wherein the connector element has a housing and the conduit region for conveying the medium as well as the opening element are accommodated in the housing.

G L
Cont

26. (Previously Presented) The connector element of claim 25, wherein an annular gap extends between the housing and the opening element, in which the sealing part is accommodated in a movable manner.

27. (Previously Presented) The connector element of claim 26, wherein the sealing part is able to be fixed in the housing with the aid of a stop.

28. (Currently Amended) The connector element of claim 18, wherein the conduit region for conveying the medium is closed off by a shut-off element.

29. (Previously Presented) The connector element of claim 28, wherein a piercing member is provided, that is movable relative to the shut-off element, which is situated in such a way that the shut-off element is able to be opened by the piercing member.

30. (Currently Amended) The connector element of claim 29, wherein the conduit region for conveying the medium is formed by a tube connector and the piercing member is situated in the tube connector.

31. (Previously Presented) The connector element of claim 29, wherein the piercing member has a projection which is connectable to a tube connector.

32. (Previously Presented) The connector element of claim 28, wherein the shut-off element is designed as an injection molded diaphragm.